

These are two countries, Mr. Speaker, one of which has already been the victim of communist aggression, and the other of which in recent years has had to face threats of communist aggression. They have already indicated their devotion to peace, and their determination to protect their freedom.

They are two countries which in Korea have also proven their devotion to the idea of collective security. They have proven it by the heroic action of their men on the battlefields there. If we considered this question at some length, it was also not because we did not realize the importance of safeguarding and strengthening the south flank of the North Atlantic area or because we did not realize the importance of the contribution Turkey and Greece could make to that end.

It was thought at one stage that possibly the result which we all desired could be achieved by some kind of reinforcement of the bilateral defence arrangements which these two countries already had with the United States and certain other countries, and which by the overlapping membership of those arrangements with the membership in the North Atlantic Council could achieve the purpose we had in mind.

It was also thought at one stage that possibly this purpose might be achieved by building up a separate Middle East or Mediterranean pact which would be closely associated with the North Atlantic Pact, again through overlapping and possibly military planning.

After careful consideration it was decided that the best solution of this problem was not those which I have indicated, but rather an invitation to these countries to become full members in the North Atlantic Council, and signatories to the North Atlantic Pact.

This was the position taken from the beginning by the United States and by the United Kingdom. It was the position taken by the Governments of Greece and Turkey themselves, who felt that full membership was the best solution to the problem, from their point of view. It was the position taken by the North Atlantic military advisers. It was felt also that, even if it had been desirable, probably it would take too long to work out a Mediterranean or Middle Eastern or Near Eastern pact which, indeed, if we tried to do it, would involve problems of inclusion and exclusion which would not be settled easily, at least at this stage.

As a result of this consideration we agreed unanimously to draw up a protocol, which, if it were ratified by all the Governments of the North Atlantic Organization, would invite those two countries to accede to our pact.

The effect of the protocol is not to extend the nature of our obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty. Those remain as they were. It does, of course, extend the area of obligations, the area in which we specify and reaffirm and indeed organize to carry out the general commitments which we have already undertaken as signatories to the United Nations Charter.

While I admit that this protocol, if it comes into effect, extends the area of our international obligations, I think that an examination of this question must convince hon. members that that extension is more theoretical than real. If, for instance, a full-out aggressive attack took place on these countries, such aggression would immediately involve other countries; and that, in turn, would involve the North Atlantic countries—and, indeed, it would be World War III.

Now, the step which we are recommending removes any uncertainty on this score. And uncertainty, as history proves, can sometimes in these matters be the greatest danger to peace. It strengthens peace by removing this uncertainty and by adding the defensive strength of these countries to our North Atlantic defensive alliance. It strengthens the deterrent value of NATO; and thereby, it makes for that peace, which is the only objective of the North Atlantic Organization.

There is nothing provocative in this protocol, nor would there be anything provocative in the membership of Greece and Turkey in our defensive organization. It constitutes a threat to no one, except the aggressor. By removing, as I have indicated, the temptation to aggression in that area, an aggression which undoubtedly would spread all over Western Europe, and therefore spread all over the world, it strengthens security everywhere.